

wherein antibodies in AIDS patient sera bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of said HIV-1 variant virus,

wherein said antibodies bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of the virus designated HIV-1_{MAL} deposited at the COLLECTION NATIONALE DES CULTURES DE MICRO-ORGANISMES (CNCM) under No. I-641, and

wherein the genetic structure of said HIV-1 variant is 5-LTR-gag-pol-vif-vpr-tat-rev-vpu-env-nef-LTR-3'.

40. (NEW) The HIV-1 variant virus of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid of said HIV-1 variant virus can be detected by hybridization with a DNA probe comprising the genomic cDNA of HIV-1_{MAL}.

41. (NEW) The HIV-1 variant virus of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid of said HIV-1 variant virus can be detected by hybridization with a DNA probe comprising a restriction enzyme fragment of the cDNA of HIV-1_{MAL}, and wherein the restriction enzyme is selected from the group consisting of *AvaI*, *BamHI*, *BglII*, *EcoRI*, *HincII*, *HindIII*, *KpnI*, *NdeI*, *PstI*, *SacI*, and *XbaI*.

REMARKS

Claims 23-41 are now pending in this application and claims 26-38 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has rejected claims 23-25.

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